



# **Mandatory Plagiarism Exercise**




# Why Is Citation Important?

- Gives due recognition to the work of others
  - Exemplifies your academic honesty/integrity
  - Underlines your interpretive and argumentative skills
- Contributes to the development of knowledge within an area of study
  - Assists readers in understanding the state of the literature
  - Situates your contribution(s) within a larger context
  - Increases the potential reliability of your findings
  - Allows others to engage critically with your work



# General Instructions

- Four slides will be shown (each for about 2 minutes).
- Discuss each case with your neighbours.
- Write your answers on a piece of paper individually.
- At the end, we will go through the slides and you will self-mark your answers as we discuss the cases.
- Your answers must be handed in at the end of class to get credit.
- Each student must hand in their own paper, with name, student ID number and **tutorial number**.



# **What You Will See and the Question You Should Answer**

- **From the original source:**
- **From a student's essay:**
- You must (a) decide whether or not the student has plagiarized from the original source, and (b) explain how you reached your decision.

- **From Peter G. Rowlands' "Climatic Factors and the Distribution of Woodland Vegetation in the Southwest":**  
In conclusion, there is a latitudinal, phytogeographic anomaly in the Southwest taking the form of declining woodland vegetation zones along a decreasing latitudinal and longitudinal gradient. This anomaly can be associated with the decline of the AHB [arid-humid boundary] from the northwest to the southeast between approximately 38'N and 31'20'N latitude. This decline in the AHB is a function of increasing summer precipitation along the same gradient.
  
- **From a student's essay:**  
An unusual relationship exists between the distribution of vegetation and latitude in Arizona and New Mexico: The lower limit of tree growth drops with decreasing latitude rather than rising, as one would expect. It has been demonstrated that this anomaly can be associated with the decline of the arid humid boundary.

- **From a lecture by John C. Bean:**

Who among us begins writing an article by choosing a topic, narrowing it, and then writing a thesis statement and outline? Rather, most of us begin by being gradually drawn into a conversation about a question in our disciplines that doesn't yet seem resolved. We find something unsatisfying about this conversation; something is missing.... Whatever the source of our puzzlement, our own writing originates in our sense of a conflict or question.

- **From a student's essay:** Often, people view the writing process as a rigid series of steps. First, you choose a topic, then you form a thesis. An outline precedes the first draft, revision succeeds the first draft and editing is always the final step. In practice, however, the writing process is not nearly so clear cut. For instance, John C. Bean (1989) argues that writing often begins not with a thesis but with a question.

### References

Bean, John C. (1989, October). Lecture presented at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN. .

- **From Michael Ventura's "The Tools of an Animal":** Different tools shape words differently, the way different tools build furniture and shoes differently.... Pen and paper are slow and messy, of course. Modernity loves speed and claims to hate mess. But speed is only a value when it's useful, and it isn't always useful. Slowness can be useful too. Using an instrument that doesn't let you go too fast can make you pause where you might not have, and a pause at the right time can change or even save your life, not to mention your work.
  
- **From a student's essay:**  
Most writers have come to depend on computers, and they can't imagine writing a paper without one. But, in an essay titled "The Tools of an Animal," Michael Ventura reminds us that sometimes computers aren't the right tool for a writer's task, sometimes using an instrument that doesn't let you go too fast can make you pause at a crucial point--and this pause may save your work from failure (5).

#### Works Cited

Ventura, Michael. "The Tools of an Animal." *The Independent Weekly* 20 April 1994: 5.

- **From William Zinsser's *On Writing Well*:**

Good writing has an aliveness that keeps the reader reading from one paragraph to the next, and it's not a question of gimmicks to "personalize" the author. It's a question of using the English language in a way that will achieve the greatest strength and the least clutter.

- **From a student's essay:**

An important quality of good writing is making it come alive. To achieve aliveness, a writer must avoid gimmicks and instead use the English language to achieve great strength and a minimal amount of clutter.

Works Cited

Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well. An Informal Guide to Writing Nonfiction*. 3rd. ed. New York: Harper, 1985.



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### EXAMPLE 3

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# Plagiarism might involve:

- Taking a text written by another and using it as though you had written it
- Misleading the reader by not citing sources that provide you with key information, or adding sources that you have not consulted to suggest that your research is more extensive
- Paraphrasing such that your text overly resembles that of the original source

Source: WLU Writing Centre (see next slide)



# For more information on proper citation, please see:

- Online resources at the Writing Centre  
([https://www.wlu.ca/forms/1693/Why\\_We\\_Cite\\_Sources\\_in\\_Academic\\_Papers\\_\(revised\).pdf](https://www.wlu.ca/forms/1693/Why_We_Cite_Sources_in_Academic_Papers_(revised).pdf))
- *Introductory Guide to Research, Citations, and Essay Writing* on WebCT
- Me or your TA
- The source for the exercise conducted today is <http://www.sinc.sunysb.edu/class/sourcebk/frost3sumframe.html>